

A FINE FLUTED POINT FROM MY FARM

by
Brad Johnson
Martin, SD

Fluted points are rare but are often found inadvertently. The Clovis type fluted point shown in obverse and reverse in Figure 1 was found by Mike Harris not far from the Little White River in Bennett County, South Dakota on July 7, 2002. Mike Harris is not a collector and found it while he was hooking up a baler on my farm. He happily made me a gift of the point.

The point is 3 1/4 inches long and as can be seen, is well-fluted on both faces. The bold fluting makes it extremely thin. The flint from which it is made is a mystery to me. Although we are not a great distance from the Knife River quarries in North Dakota, this point is not made from that stone.



Figure 1 (Johnson). Clovis type fluted point found in South Dakota.

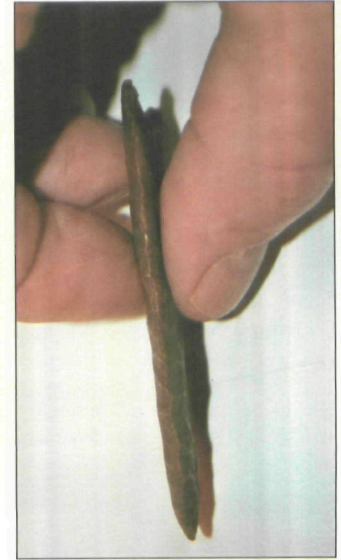


Figure 2 (Johnson). Side view of the point.

December 11, 2009

Michael Van Steen
President, Archaeological Society of Ohio
5303 Wildman Road
Cedarville, OH 45314

RE: Youth Archaeological Programming
Dear Mr. Van Steen:

First, I want to thank you for volunteering your time and energy to lead the Archaeological Society of Ohio. Although I am a relatively new member and haven't been too involved, I have enjoyed the publications and shows that I have attended. As I am sure you know, the Ohio Historical Society has completed, or is in the process of completing, the transitioning out of numerous heritage sites in Ohio from their operational control. This has affected a site that is very special to me and my family - Fort Ancient. Luckily, another non-profit organization has finalized an agreement with OHS that will ensure its continued operation for at least another year. However, budget cuts have certainly impacted what they can offer and there is no guarantee of how long they will operate the site. My wife and I absolutely love bringing our kids to the site to tour the museum, walk the trails, and imagine how this magnificent complex was built and used 2,000 years ago.

Like many other families, while raising our 3 kids much of our time is dominated by youth sports and other activities. However, we always try to provide them with opportunities to learn about the history, and pre-history, of our area. Unfortunately, I see very few kids today that are provided with that same opportunity. With parents and kids busy schedules, there is just not the emphasis on this type of activity. Without the support of new generations, the future of these sites is at risk. Schools used to be a resource to bring kids to these locations and expose them to native history and prehistory, but they too have had to face budget cuts that have forced them to eliminate busing expenses, etc. We have to take action to provide young children the opportunity to learn and be interested in archaeology and Ohio's pre-history. Otherwise, the value that our society places on archaeology will continue to decline. There is no better way to do this than to let them see these sites first hand and hear from those involved.

I would like to challenge the ASO to take a leadership role in providing resources through fundraising to help bring children back to these archaeological sites. Requests for donations and fundraising auctions may be a couple of ways that the society can use its membership resources to help improve this situation. I would be glad to get involved on a volunteer basis if you think this concept is worth pursuing.

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cc: Robert Converse

Ohio Archaeologist